



Enter!
Promoting Access to Social Rights for All Young People



A project by the Youth Department of the Council of Europe aimed at promoting access to social rights for young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence

Enter! Youth Meeting 2015

Arrival: 5 July, Departure: 9 July after 13.00
Working days: 6 – 9 July 2015, European Youth Centre Strasbourg

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

DEADLINE TO APPLY: 27 April 2015

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENTER! YOUTH MEETING

Background information on the Enter! project

From the perspective of the Council of Europe, social inclusion of all young people is firmly based on human rights (as codified in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Revised European Social Charter), as well as an acceptance of shared responsibility for the welfare of all members of society, especially those who are at risk of poverty or exclusion. In line with this, the youth policy of the Council of Europe aims at “providing young people with equal opportunities and experience which enable them to develop knowledge, skills and competencies to play a full part in all aspects of society”¹.

In 2009, the Council of Europe’s youth sector initiated the Enter! project aiming to support youth policy and youth work responses to exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people, particularly in multicultural disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This project was set at the initiative of the European Steering Committee on Youth and the Advisory Council on Youth, the governmental and non-governmental partners of the youth sector of the Council of Europe, as a response to matters of social cohesion and inclusion of young people. The main concerns that informed the project were the multi-dimensional social and economic imbalances associated with young people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and which put them at a disadvantage in accessing social human rights. The methodology of the project sought alternative ways of thinking and practicing youth work, starting from the involvement of young people themselves, relying on the competent action of youth workers and youth organisations and seeking medium and long-term impact through youth policies at local and national level. The Enter! project draws on the experience of the Council of Europe youth sector in developing non-formal learning and training of youth workers in order to explore ways of responding to challenges faced by young people and youth work institutions.

The Enter! project promotes access to social rights for young people, in particular of those exposed to social exclusion, discrimination and violence, through a variety of local, national and European interventions involving policy-makers, youth work actors and young people. The Enter! project is rooted in the overall philosophy of youth work and youth policy of the Council of Europe, which takes into account:

- the role of non-formal learning and youth work in supporting the autonomy of young people,
- social inclusion and social cohesion as important dimensions of sustainable democratic societies,
- citizenship, participation and the agency of young people in matters concerning them,
- an intercultural learning dimension to diversity based on the understanding of universal human rights.

The objectives of the Enter! project are:

- to address situations social exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people living through non-formal education and youth work projects;

¹ Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2008)23 on the youth policy of the Council of Europe

- to develop the competences of youth workers to initiate, support and evaluate projects for and with young people as a tool for youth empowerment and youth participation for access to social rights;
- to develop conceptual, educational and practical means of translating access to social rights for young people into the realities of youth work and policy-making;
- to advocate for the access of young people to social rights, particularly by developing partnerships between civil society actors, young people and policy-makers, at local, national and European levels;
- to advocate for policy responses that promote access to social rights for young people, particularly by supporting the implementation of the CM/Rec(2015)3 Committee of Ministers Recommendation to the member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights.

A long-term training course for youth workers was organised in the framework of the Enter! project in 2012 – 2014 and the experiences of the youth-led projects run by participants on the local level showcase the value of youth work as a contribution to promoting access to social rights. Partnerships with local and regional authorities were also supported throughout the training course.

A major breakthrough of the Enter! project was the adoption in January 2015 of a Council of Europe’s Committee of Ministers Recommendation to the member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights. The [Recommendation](#) focuses on education and training, employment and occupation, health, housing, information and counselling, sports, leisure and culture. The policies should promote participation of these young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in all matters related to the planning and management of their living environment. The role of non-formal education and youth work, as well as youth workers and youth organisations in the prevention of discrimination, violence and exclusion and the promotion of active citizenship are highlighted. This policy recommendation was developed in 2010 – 2011 and a first Enter! Youth Meeting organised in September 2011 provided input from young people and youth workers on its content.

At European level, initiatives from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities on youth matters (for example, a youth session in 2014 and further work on youth participation and the [Resolution 319 \(2010\) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods](#)), the European Youth Forum on matters of social inclusion of young people and youth organisations represent also relevant developments and processes for the promotion of access to social rights of young people.

In this context, the Youth Department of the Council of Europe is now looking forward to organising a second Enter! Youth Meeting, which will both provide a space for sharing examples of practices and experiences for young people, youth leaders, youth workers, local and regional authorities etc. as well as contribute to the promotion of the policy recommendation.

The Enter! Youth Meeting

One core element of the Enter! project is putting young people and youth-led initiatives at the heart of solutions for improving their access to social rights. For example, through the Enter! long-term training course for youth workers/leaders, a number of local youth projects were developed and

young people who have difficulties in exercising their social rights learnt more about their rights, or developed skills to claim them. These local projects were based on active participation of young people, intercultural learning and human rights education, and also addressed specific challenges to social rights. A first Enter! Youth Meeting was organised in 2011 and one of the expectations voiced was for the Council of Europe to give higher visibility and recognition to young people and their initiatives for social rights². Furthermore, with the policy recommendation now adopted, the role of youth work and youth policy needs to be further and effectively promoted. The role of public bodies, and particularly local and regional authorities, remains key for the implementation of policies on access to social rights.

In this context, the Enter! Youth Meeting will be a large-scale event through which young people from across Europe, youth workers and local and regional authorities' representatives will meet, exchange practices related to the promotion of access to social rights and contribute to the implementation of the Enter! policy recommendation.

Aim and objectives

The Enter! Youth Meeting will bring together young people active in youth work projects to discuss ways to make the recommendations of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation on Access of Young people from Disadvantaged Neighbourhoods to Social Rights a reality for young people across Europe³. The objectives of the meeting are:

- To provide young people with the opportunity to have their voice heard and to be associated with the work of the Council of Europe;
- To learn about young people's experiences of access to social rights;
- To share youth work and youth policy practices and responses to situations of exclusion, discrimination and violence affecting young people;
- To elaborate further on the needs and possibilities for the implementation of the Committee of Ministers Recommendation to the member states on the access of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods to social rights;
- To collect proposals for future orientations of the Council of Europe's work in the area of young people's access to rights, autonomy and social inclusion.

Format and methodology

The youth meeting will bring together about 200 participants (young people, policy makers, youth representatives, researchers and youth workers) in Strasbourg for three and 1/2 days, with arrival foreseen on 5 July and departure on 9 July afternoon.

The meeting will be held in English and French.

Participants will be reimbursed their travel costs according to the Council of Europe rules. Meals and accommodation will be provided at the European Youth Centre and in hotels in Strasbourg.

² See the full [Message of the meeting to the Council of Europe](#)

³ The text of the recommendation is available [here](#).

The meeting will ensure continuity with other activities developed in the framework of the Enter! project, as the young people invited to the youth congress will be mainly participants from the youth projects previously developed by the Enter! LTTC participants and in the activities developed by the Enter! project partners.

The programme of the meeting will provide space for individual as well as group reflection and debate, encourage exchange of practices, inputs and will specifically have a youth dimension. The methods should support an inclusive approach to young people's inputs and participation. An important concern will be to secure both a pleasant and a useful intercultural learning experience for all the young people attending the meeting.

Expected outcomes

The youth meeting will be an intercultural learning opportunity for participants, and as such an expected outcome is that participants learn more about social rights, situations and responses in other countries, as well as about the work of the Council of Europe in this field. Participants will also learn about the situation of young people in different countries.

Another expected outcome consists of input for the Enter! policy recommendation to be implemented at different levels, particularly local and national. Participants will also provide input to the work of the Council of Europe in the field of young people's access to rights. Participants will also develop a message for the Council of Europe and other stakeholders related to the support to the work on access to social rights.

The event is expected to bring more visibility to youth issues within the Council of Europe.

During the event, participants will learn more about the policy framework of the Council of Europe. Participants from local and regional authorities will learn more about the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities [Resolution 319 \(2010\) on the integration of young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods](#).

Partnerships and networking will also be among the expected outcomes of the meeting.

What's in this event for young people?

The Enter! Youth Meeting is an opportunity for young people to:

- get to know new people from different countries and how they are engaged in fighting for social rights
- get motivated to work further on social rights
- make a contribution to social rights
- participate and have their voice heard by policy-makers
- communicate in an intercultural environment
- have fun and enjoy
- learn about the Council of Europe
- discover Strasbourg
- share realities, activities, talents and hobbies
- influence one's future and choices

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Enter! Youth Meeting will bring together up to 200 participants, young people involved in youth work projects on access to social rights, youth workers, representatives of local and regional authorities, together with other experts, researchers and representatives of the Enter! project partners.

Young people should have the following profile:

- be preferably aged 16 to 20
- have been a participant, volunteer or peer educator/leader in a youth project addressing the issues of access to social rights
- are directly concerned by the issues of violence, exclusion or discrimination in their neighbourhood
- preferably speak English or French at a basic level
- be resident in one of the countries of the European Cultural Convention of the Council of Europe;
- be available for full participation in the meeting.

This call for participants is open to **group applications**. Each group must include young people according to the profile detailed above up to 2 young people (plus one more in the reserve list in case some of the participants you propose drop out for different reasons), a youth worker and, to the extent of the possible, a member or representative of local and regional authorities working on issues related to social rights and youth policy. Other profiles may be also considered. If you want to propose another type of profile of participants, please write to Mara Georgescu, mara.georgescu@coe.int.

How to apply

In order to participate in the Enter! Youth Meeting you need to apply as an organisation or a group. The application should be made on behalf of the organisation by the youth worker who will assist young people coming to the Enter! Youth Meeting. Organisations can propose up to 3 young people (2 plus one on the reserve list), one member of local and regional authorities and one youth worker to participate in the event.

You should provide the details of a youth worker (who will assist and accompany young people) in the application, the details of the organisation, the details of the young people from your organisation and details about a member of local and regional authorities (if there is a possibility to also include them in the group). The application will also ask you to provide information about your experiences on social rights, your motivation to participate in this meeting and your follow-up ideas.

All applicants should fill in the application form available online at this address: <http://youthapplications.coe.int/> by 27 April 2015.

More information

More information on the Enter! Project can be found at www.coe.int/enter.

If you have questions about the Enter! Youth Meeting, please contact Mara Georgescu, educational advisor in the Youth Department, mara.georgescu@coe.int